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Dear Mayor Khan and the London Plan team,

With reference to the London Plan consultation I wish to respond as follows.

Dear Sadiq Khan As I have just written in the consultation on air in London, as a National Park City we need to protect, preserve and increase the amount of greenspace, parks, gardens and plant and tree life across the city wherever possible. People need to be made more aware of the wellbeing benefits of walking and gardening in and around trees - a study of the East London Green Grid estimated that the establishment of 5.5% greenspace across a single 10 km by 10 km square could avert two deaths and two hospital admissions per year. Research has shown that patient recovery rates improve even if they can only view trees from their hospital window and that hospital gardens also improved recovery. It has also been shown that closeness to green space reduces obesity and weight issues. More at NHS Forest Website. This means we must protect existing parks, green spaces, woodlands and cemeteries in consultation with local communities and encourage local and city wide gardening and tree planting schemes which beautify and boost the wellbeing of our city - including allotments, community gardens, transition town projects, rooftop gardens. This also means making sustainable choices around development - putting people and planet before profit - ie building on derelict sites not green spaces, protecting ancient beautiful parks and cemeteries (there has been an ongoing struggle by residents in Southwark around this issue and in my own borough Croydon there was recent concert about insufficient legal protection of our park land in the local plan.) The trees are the lungs of the city and they are less expensive than the cost to the health service of dealing with the increasing number of people with respiratory issues. They have also been proven to reduce crime on council estates - resulting in a cost reduction to the police service. Please act with vision, boldness and sustainability for the health and breath of our city Yours sincerely Katie Burden

In the sections listed below (in the same order as they appear in the draft London Plan).

- Paragraph 1.3.3. Recommend an addition (in CAPS) to the following sentence: "Access to green and open spaces, including waterways AND TREES, can improve health, but access varies widely across the city."
- Paragraph 3.9.5. I support the inclusion of "Protection for trees" as an issue in the amplification of potential negative impacts of large-scale basement development beneath existing buildings.
- Policy H1. Increasing housing supply. I recommend that Sentence B2)d is clarified so that "public sector owned sites" will not include woodland, parks and open spaces.
- Paragraph 4.2.9. I support the principle of "no net loss of overall green cover" as a result of small housing developments, and support "off-site provision such as new street trees" in order to achieve this principle. I recommend an addition (in CAPS) to the following sentence: "Loss of existing biodiversity OR GREEN SPACE, as a result of small housing developments, should be mitigated through measures such as the installation of green roofs, the provision of landscaping that facilitates sustainable urban drainage, or off-site provision such as new street trees in order to achieve the principle of no net loss of overall green cover. Rainwater attenuation features should be incorporated to achieve greenfield run off rates. LOSS OF ANY PUBLIC GREEN SPACE WILL BE COMPENSATED FOR WITH ALTERNATIVE ACCESSIBLE SITES."
- Policy S4. Play and informal recreation. I support section B2)d, that residential development proposals for schemes that are likely to be used by children and young people should incorporate good-quality, accessible play provision for all ages, of at least 10 square metres per child that: "incorporates trees and/or other forms of greenery".
- Policy G1. Green infrastructure. I support this policy, and subsequent narrative that mentions the important role of

trees.

- Policy G5. Urban greening. I support this policy, including the recommended Urban Green Space Factor, and subsequent narrative that mentions the important role of trees. I support the inclusion of the role and weighting for woodland and trees in Table 8.2 - Urban Greening Factors. I recommend including a reference to Residential Development and Trees (Woodland Trust, 2015, woodlandtrust.org.uk/residentialdevelopments).

- Policy G6. Biodiversity and access to nature. I support this policy. I recommend that Sites of Metropolitan Importance and

all ancient woodlands are added to the categories of planning applications that must be referred to the Mayor.

- Policy G7. Trees and woodlands. I support this policy. I recommend that Section B)1 is strengthened as follows (amendments in CAPS): "GIVE THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE protection TO 'veteran' trees and ancient woodland, ESPECIALLY where these are not already part of a protected site". I support the subsequent narrative on the role of trees, particularly paragraphs 8.71 – 8.73. I recommend referring London boroughs to guidance on ancient woodland and veteran trees: Planners' manual for ancient woodland and veteran trees(Woodland Trust, 2017, woodlandtrust.org.uk/plannersmanual).

Please accept this my formal response to the consultation. I will look forward to hearing from you as the Plan progresses.

Yours,

Katie Burden

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